



U.S. Department of
Transportation

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

GENERAL COUNSEL

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

FEE 1 7 2000

73207

OST-99-6410-39

Mr. Dick Clanncy
CWT Travel For Fun
2204 Thicket Ct.
Suwanee, GA 30024

Dear Mr. Clanncy:

The White House has asked me to respond to your e-mail of October 8, 1999, concerning the airlines' commission cuts. The American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA) has recently filed a complaint with this Department against a number of airlines (Docket OST-99-6410). ASTA alleges that in cutting the commissions that they pay travel agents, the airlines are engaging in unfair practices and unfair methods of competition in violation of 49 U.S.C. §41712.

The airlines filed their responses to ASTA's complaint on December 10. It is now up to the Enforcement Office to review the complaint **and** responses and determine whether, under our statute, the complaint **should** be pursued or dismissed. Under these circumstances, it would be **inappropriate** for me to comment on the substance of your letter. You can track the pleadings as well as the Department's actions through our Dockets web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Clicking on "search" and then typing "6410" in the space for the docket number and again clicking on "search" will bring up a list of all documents in the docket. Each item can be opened.

The Department's *ex parte* rules, 14 CFR Part 300, require that I place your letter and a copy of this reply in Docket OST-99-6410. Please be assured that ASTA's complaint will receive careful and thorough consideration.

Sincerely,

Samuel Podberesky
Assistant General Counsel for
Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings

OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKET
00 FEB 29 PM 12:11

189
28 lines 100T

From: daemon on 1 0/08/99 05:07 AM GMT

To: President@gateway

cc:

Subject: Airlines unfair to Travel Agents

[Connection Information]

CLIENT: 209.86.151.164 [209.86.151.164]
BROWSER: Mozilla/2.0 (compatible; MSIE 3.02; Windows 95)
URL: http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/Mail/html/Mail_President.html

[Sender Information]

PERSONAL-NAME: Dick CXlancy
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ORGANIZATION: The Travel Industry
RELATIONSHIP: An owner
STREET-ADDRESS: 2204 Thicket Court
CITY: Suwanee
STATE-PROVINCE: Ga
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COUNTRY: usa

[Message Information]

PURPOSE: Seek assistance from the White House
TOPIC: No Answer
AFFILIATION: No Answer
SUBJECT: Airlines unfair to Travel Agents

[Message]

Today, United Airlines started the new phase of the war against travel agents and reduced our commissions by 38% effective tomorrow. This follows the several major reductions during the last few years.

The other agents will likely follow in the next few days since the rumor of this reduction has been circulating for about a year.

Can you see a government employee being told their salary would be reduced 38% the next day?

We do not need government money. We need your help in leveling the playing field. Remove anti-trust laws that prevent a small **entreneur** from standing up to airlines that make over a billion dollars in profit each year. Will you

help?

Dick Clanncy